the anti-poaching infrastructure under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife".

(v) Co-operation of Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Army has been sought for conservation of wildlife in border areas.

(vi) Wildlife Institute of India is providing training to officials in Wildlife Management.

(vii) Research on various aspects of wildlife management has been taken up.

(viii) State Government have been requested to ban felling of trees in the hills, above the altitude of 1,000 metres.

(ix) World Wildlife Fund (India) has recently started a wildlife trade monitoring Unit i.e. TRAFFIC INDIA. This will help in minimising illegal trafficking in wildlife products.

Moratorium on exploitation of forests

1896. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to place a moratorium on commercial exploitation of forest in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The national Forest Policy 1988 does not provide for total ban on cutting of trees. However, it enjoins that no forest should be permitted to be worked without the Government having approved the Management Plan and that derivation of direct economic benefit from the forests should be subordinated to the importance of forests for environmental stability and ecological balance.

Air pollution

1897. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the air pollution in mist of the cities particularly in the Capital has risen to poisonous level;

(b) if so, to what extent the air of the Metropolitan cities including Delhi is polluted;

(c) what is the ratio of dust and smoke in polluting the air; and

(d) what remedial action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the air quality survey, air pollution levels in cities are, by and large, within the prescribed limits and continue to remain so. While the levels of sulphur dioxides and oxides of nitrogen are well within the limits, particulate matter in these cities is on the higher side. This is mainly due to the presence of dust and high density of vehicular traffic. This is also true for Delhi.

(b) and (c) The range of the annual averages for metropolitan cities, including Delhi, from the latest available data of the criteria pollutants monitored, are from 5 to 49 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3) for sulphur dioxide, from 11 to 30 ug/m3 for nitrogen dioxide and 88 to 510 ug/mg3 for particulate matter.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to control pollution in metropolitan cities include the following:

(1) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed for industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(2) Ambient air quality standards have been evolved;

(3) A network of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations has been set up;